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Message Text

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46
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 094684
R 301210Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3671
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 0719

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JO, IS
SUBJ: ALLON'S INTEREST IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN

REF: TEL AVIV 0623

1. WE FIND ALLON'S SUGGESTION THAT ISRAEL MIGHT NEGOTIATE ON PRE-JUNE 1967 BORDERS WITH JORDAN NORTH AND SOUTH OF WEST BANK INTERESTING. DELINEATION OF BORDER TO THE SOUTH WOULD NOT BE UNCOMPLICATED TASK GIVEN FACT THAT ISRAELIS IN SEVERAL AREAS HAVE APPARENTLY "CREPT" BORDER FENCE IN SOME CASES EASTWARD IN DIRECTION OF JORDAN A NUMBER OF KILOMETERS, APPARENTLY TO PROTECT AIRFIELDS AND ROADS. WHILE WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT COOPERATION IN PHOSPHATE FIELD MIGHT INVOLVE, (DEAD SEA POTASH MORE LIKELY CANDIDATE) WE ARE AWARE OF FACT THAT JORDANIANS HAVE EXPRESSED INCREASED CONCERN RECENTLY OVER POLLUTION IN NORTHERN GULF OF AQABA, SOME OF WHICH STEMS FROM ISRAELI PHOSPHATE LOADING FACILITY. FINALLY, "OPEN BRIDGE" BETWEEN AQABA AND EILAT FOR THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BEFORE AND CONSTITUTES, WE PRESUME, ONE ADDITIONAL AREA OF POLITICAL MOVEMENT WHICH ISRAELIS WOULD FAVOR.

2. WHILE ALL OF THIS WOULD SEEM TO HAVE SOME VALUE, AS LONG AS IT IS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY GENERAL MOVEMENT ON OTHER FRONTS
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TOWARDS SOLUTION, OUR PRESENT JUDGEMENT IS THAT

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JORDANIANS ARE UNLIKELY TO BITE. THEY HAVE BEEN
EXTREMELY CAREFUL IN THEIR POSTURE POST-RABAT TO
ENCOURAGE AND IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH FELLOW ARABS.
UNLESS AND UNTIL EGYPT AND SYRIA WERE PREPARED TO
MAKE POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION OF A MORE IMPRESSIVE
CHARACTER THAN NOW EXISTS WITH DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT,
WE DO NOT BELIEVE JORDAN WILL RISK POSSIBILITY OF
ARAB OPPROBRIUM BY TAKING SUCH STEPS AS ALLON HAS
PROPOSED. AT SOME SUBSEQUENT POINT, SUCH STEPS
MIGHT WELL BE POSSIBLE.

3. ALLON'S STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, RAISE POSSIBILITY
AGAIN OF QUESTION WHICH WAS POSITED BY THIS POST
LAST YEAR AND THEN DROPPED BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY
THAT ISRAELI PUBLICITY WOULD SERVE TO INJURE JORDANIAN
POLITICAL INTERESTS. THIS CONCERNS JORDAN'S INTEREST
IN HYDROLOGICAL WORK WHICH ISRAELIS MAY HAVE DONE IN
WADI ARABA WHICH STRADDLES SOUTHERN BORDER. THIS
HAS BEEN RAISED AGAIN IN RECENT DAYS WITH AID
ADMINISTRATOR PARKER'S VISIT TO REGION. CROWN PRINCE
HASSAN HAS MOVED WORK FORWARD IN AREA BY COMMENCING
SOME TRIAL WELL DRILLING OPERATIONS. HE NOTES THAT
ISRAELIS HAVE DONE RATHER EXTENSIVE WORK ON THEIR
SIDE; THIS IS APPARENT FROM FLYING ALONG BORDER REGION.
WE WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN EMBASSY TEL AVIV
COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE REVIVAL BY THEM WITH ISRAELIS OF JORDANIAN
INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT IN EITHER ONE OF TWO
FORMS: (A) SEEK DISCREET ISRAELI COOPERATION TO
PROVIDE THROUGH US WHATEVER HYDROLOGICAL INFORMATION
ISRAELIS MIGHT HAVE AVAILABLE; OR (B) RAISE GENERAL
US INTEREST IN ISRAELI HYDROLOGICAL WORK WITHOUT
REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO JORDANIANS--THIS MIGHT BE
LIMITED AS NOTED EARLIER TO PURCHASE OF DATA AVAILABLE
TO GENERAL PUBLIC FROM ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. WE WOULD
PREFER (A) IF WE COULD BE SURE ISRAELIS WOULD
HOLD PUBLICITY. IN FACT HOLDING PUBLICITY WOULD
BE USEFUL ELEMENT OF GOOD FAITH IN DEALING WITH
JORDANIANS WHICH MIGHT POSSIBLY LEAD TO ADDITIONAL
STEPS IN AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO ISRAELIS.
ALTERNATIVELY, EMBASSY HAS NOT RESPONDED TO OUR FOLLOW-
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UP INQUIRY LAST YEAR AS TO WHETHER INFORMATION SUCH
AS NOTED IN CATAGORY (B) ABOVE IS AVAILABLE AND COULD
BE PROVIDED THROUGH AN EMBASSY PURCHASE.

4. INTEREST ENHANCED ON OUR SIDE BECAUSE USGS IS WE
HOPE SOON TO PROGRESS INTO COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP
WITH JORDANIAN NATURAL RESOURCES AUTHORITY (NRA).
ONE MAJOR AREA OF USGS ASSISTANCE MIGHT BY HYDROLOGY

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IN WADI ARABA. THERE IS A SIMILAR QUESTION OF COOPERATION ON
POTASH, BUT WE WOULD PREFER TO ADDRESS THIS SEPARATELY
AND AFTER MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE HERE.

5. JORDANIAN POSTURE VIS-A-VIS PLO WOULD PROHIBIT
ANY STATEMENT OF INTEREST FROM HERE ON MOVING JORDAN
BACK AGAIN TO NEGOTIATIONS ON WEST BANK. FOR
FORESEEABLE FUTURE, WE BELIEVE THAT KING WILL
LIE LOW ON THIS POINT AND ANSWER ALL PUBLIC INQUIRIES
WITH RESPONSE THAT JORDAN WILL ABIDE BY RABAT
SUMMIT DECISIONS. THIS HAS HELPED ENORMOUSLY IN
DEFLECTING PLO ATTACKS, BUT SEEMS EVEN MORE SIGNIF-
ICANTLY TO BE CONNECTED WITH JORDAN'S INCREASED ABILITY
TO IMPROVE ITS CREDENTIALS IN THE ARAB WORLD AND
ACQUIRE RECENTLY PROMISED SUBSIDIES. MEANWHILE, FAVORED
FORMULATION, WHEN ASKED HERE AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD
ONLY DO SO IF PRESSED BY ARAB LEADERS AND (OR)
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. WE BELIEVE IT REFLECTS ACCURATELY REALITIES
OF PRESENT SITUATION--THAT JORDAN COULD NOT NEGOTIATE
WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FROM KEY ARAB LEADERS
SUCH AS FAISAL AND SADAT AND POSSIBLY WITH AT LEAST
ACQUIESENCE OF ASAD.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT TO INDICATE WHETHER IT CONTINUES
TO APPROVE SUGGESTION IN PARAGRAPH 3.
PICKERING

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